

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE**  
**ABIDJAN BUREAU**

MAB 3016  
6 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Abidjan Bureau - August 1983

**I. GENERAL**

An eight-member Congressional delegation visited Abidjan from 17-19 August. The delegation, made up primarily of members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Africa, was led by Representative Howard Wolpe of Michigan. The bureau chief took part in a briefing of the delegation on the night of the 17th. The bureau driver made special courier runs to provide the delegation copies of the daily file, and we loaned USIS one of our SONY-330 portable radios for use by the delegation.

**II. OPERATIONS**

Editorial/Monitorial

1. At about midnight on 4 August, Ouagadougou radio announced that President Ouedraogo's regime had been overthrown by former Prime Minister Thomas Sankara, who has close ties with Libya. The bureau had remained open late that night to process Ouedraogo's address to the nation on National Day, and was preparing to close after midnight when an AFP report announcing the coup was received from Okinawa Bureau. Ouagadougou radio was immediately tuned in and Sankara's speech to the nation announcing and justifying the coup was monitored, followed by a series of communiques. The bureau worked throughout the night processing material and the DCM and ambassador were alerted to the situation in the early hours of the 5th. A package of material was prepared for the ambassador to brief Ivorian Foreign Minister Ake on the coup. When a minimize was imposed on communications to the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou, the Embassy immediately asked FBIS to continue filing reports on the coup, calling these items "of utmost importance." Several days after the coup, the Embassy expressed its appreciation to the bureau "for the outstanding coverage it has provided on fast breaking news stories emanating from Ouagadougou. The translations have been rapid and well done. They have greatly aided our effort to provide Washington with timely and complete coverage of Upper Volta's latest coup d'etat." An open watch was maintained for several days and additional coverage was added for two weeks. Almost 40,000 words were processed from Ouagadougou in August, an all-time record. The longest of these items was a Sankara press conference on the 21st, from which the bureau processed seven takes of excerpts.

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2. The war in Chad heated up again during the month, with Libyan troops advancing, the French intervening, and the bureau remaining open during the evening on two weekends to cover developments. The extra coverage enabled the bureau to process on the 7th a GUNT statement accusing the French of falsely flying the Red Cross flag and an appeal by a former Habre minister for FAN members to join the opposition, and on the 13th GUNT communiques indicating a willingness to negotiate with FAN and reporting details of losses in the battle for Faya-Largeau. A variety of other statements from the clandestine Radio Bardai were processed by the bureau or BBC during the month. Under current coverage arrangements, the bureau assumes primary coverage for Bardai Monday through Friday, with the BBC backstopping when reception in Abidjan is poor. On the diplomatic front, Paris Diplomatic Information Service on the 25th carried the text of a five-take exclusive interview granted by French President to LE MONDE and published in that day's edition. The interview, devoted solely to Chad, was processed and filed at immediate precedence at WSS request because of intense consumer interest. PMJ did not receive the paper until the following afternoon.

3. The Nigerian elections and resulting violence in various locations occupied considerable bureau attention and resulted in nearly 70,000 words processed from Nigerian media, a record for that country. The major sources for detailed information on the elections, held in stages over several weekends, were Lagos radio and the News Agency of Nigeria. Kaduna radio also provided valuable reportage on results from the north. The seemingly sweeping victory by the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) triggered violence in some places and it was reported that defeated politicians were using local media to incite action against the NPN. As a precaution, the bureau surveyed its reception of state radios, finding it could hear only those in the western part of the country, with radios in the more politically sensitive Ibo area in the east unmonitored. A few items were filed from Calabar and Ibadan radios concerning disturbances in those areas.

4. On the 28th the bureau reopened on Sunday evening to cover a speech to the nation by Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings. The speech, a fairly routine exhortation for better work, broke a period of relative silence which Rawlings had maintained since an attempted coup was foiled in June. The speech was recorded and an FYI prepared, but processing was delayed until the 29th, when a repeat broadcast was monitored with better reception. On the 30th the bureau received the following kudos from the U.S. Embassy in Accra: "We want you to know how much we appreciate the help FBIS is giving us in monitoring Ghana broadcasting, particularly in crisis situations. The work FBIS did on the Rawlings' speech August 28 was timely and useful."

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5. An ANGOP item in French monitored on the 27th evoked considerable interest from local and Washington consumers. It reported a statement by Angolan President Dos Santos on the arrival of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Both the charge d'affaires in Abidjan and Washington consumers requested text of the speech, which unfortunately was not monitored by FBIS. A copy of the ANGOP version of the report was given to the charge, who forwarded it to Ivorian Foreign Minister Ake.

6. On the 13th, the Liberian Government announced it was reestablishing ties with Israel, and Commander in Chief Doe subsequently made a state visit to that country. Liberia was the second African country to take such action, but other countries including Ivory Coast are reportedly considering renewing formal ties with Israel.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### Personnel

1. London Bureau Associate Editor [redacted] returned to England on the 5th, following an eight-week TDY during which he filled in while the bureau chief and deputy chief were on annual leave.

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2. Teletypist [redacted] received a PSI on the 7th, to FSN 6/4.

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[redacted]  
Chief, Abidjan Bureau

#### Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau  
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

## ABIDJAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 1983

## TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	288,220
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	9,220
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	795

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
7,434	30,360	115

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:  
(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
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(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

## ANGOLA

LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1.040
LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1.840
LUANDA ANGOP IN PORTUGUESE	
LUANDA ANGOP IN FRENCH	

## BENIN

COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	2.570
COTONOU EHUZU IN FRENCH	

## CAMEROON

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	3.020
YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1.920
CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN FRENCH	
CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN ENGLISH	

## CONGO

BRAZZAVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1.010
BRAZZAVILLE BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN IN FRENCH	
BRAZZAVILLE ETUMBA IN FRENCH	

## CHAD

(CLANDESTINE) BARDAI CHADIAN NATIONAL RADIO	13.980
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
FRANCE			
PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH		45,300	
PARIS AFP IN FRENCH		41,080	
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN FRENCH		3,750	
GABON			
LIBREVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,020		
LIBREVILLE L'UNION IN FRENCH			
LIBREVILLE AFRICA NO.1 IN FRENCH	550		
GHANA			
ACCRA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	25,560		
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA GHANAIAN TIMES IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA WEEKLY SPECTATOR IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA THE MIRROR IN ENGLISH			

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
GUINER			
CONAKRY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,200		
CONAKRY MOROYA IN FRENCH			
IVORY COAST			
ABIDJAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	550		
ABIDJAN FRATERNITE MATIN IN FRENCH			
ABIDJAN INFORMATION IN FRENCH			
LIBERIA			
MONROVIA RADIO ELWA IN ENGLISH	7,120		
MONROVIA DOMESTIC IN ENGLISH	2,120		
MONROVIA EXPRESS IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA LIBERIAN INAUGURAL IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA NEW LIBERIAN IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA THE SUND PEOPLE IN ENGLISH			
MALI			
BAMAKO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,230		
BAMAKO L'ESSOR IN FRENCH			
MAURITANIA			
NOUAKCHOTT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,050		
NOUAKCHOTT CHAB IN FRENCH			
NIGER			
NIAMENY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,260		
NIAMENY LE SAHEL IN FRENCH			
NIAMENY SAHEL HEBDO IN FRENCH			

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
NIGERIA			
LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	34,740		
LAGOS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1,700		
KADUNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	6,720		
NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (NAN) IN ENGLISH		24,860	
CALABA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1,660		
IBADAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	690		
SENEGAL			
DAKAR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,800		
DAKAR LE SOLEIL IN FRENCH			
DAKAR PANA IN ENGLISH		2,970	
DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH		8,240	
TOGO			
LOME DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	930		
TOGO NOUVELLE MARCHE IN FRENCH			
UPPER VOLTA			
OUAGADOUGOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	39,050		
OUAGADOUGOU L'OBSERVATEUR IN FRENCH			
ZAIRE			
KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,990		
KINSHASA AZAP IN FRENCH		500	
KINSHASA ELIMA IN FRENCH			
LUBUMBASHI NJUMBE IN FRENCH			